

We claim:

1. A portable recording unit for recording an event, comprising:

5 a visual data acquisition device for obtaining visual recording data representing the content of the event;

a non-linear, non-volatile data storage device for storing the visual recording data such that the visual recording data can be randomly accessed; and

10 means for mounting one or more of the devices of the recording unit on the body of a recorder.

2. A portable recording unit as in Claim 1, wherein the mounting means further comprises visual data acquisition device mounting means.

15 3. A portable recording unit as in Claim 2, wherein the visual data acquisition device mounting means is adapted to enable the visual data acquisition device to be mounted at multiple locations on the recorder's body.

20 4. A portable recording unit as in Claim 3, wherein the visual data acquisition device mounting means further comprises means for detachably attaching the visual data acquisition device to the recorder's body.

25 5. A portable recording unit as in Claim 1, wherein a visual data acquisition device mounting means, or a means for attaching the visual data acquisition device to the visual data acquisition device mounting means, is adapted to enable the visual data acquisition device to assume multiple orientations with respect to the location of the recorder's body at which the visual data acquisition device is mounted.

6. A portable recording unit as in Claim 1, further comprising a control interface device for enabling the recorder to effect control of the operation of the recording unit and/or for displaying information to the recorder
5 regarding the operation of the recording unit.

7. A portable recording unit as in Claim 1, further comprising an audio data acquisition device for obtaining audio recording data representing the content of the event.

8. A portable recording unit as in Claim 7, wherein
10 the mounting means further comprises audio data acquisition device mounting means that is adapted to enable the audio data acquisition device to be mounted at multiple locations on the recorder's body.

9. A portable recording unit as in Claim 7, wherein
15 the mounting means further comprises audio data acquisition device mounting means for mounting the audio data acquisition device adjacent to the front of the recorder's body.

10. A portable recording unit as in Claim 7, wherein the mounting means further comprises audio data acquisition
20 device mounting means for mounting the audio data acquisition device proximate to the recorder's head.

11. A portable recording unit for recording an event, comprising:

25 a visual data acquisition device for obtaining visual recording data representing the content of the event;

means for obtaining and/or producing augmenting data in addition to the visual recording data; and

30 means for mounting one or more of the devices of the recording unit on the body of a recorder.

12. A portable recording unit as in Claim 11, wherein the means for obtaining and/or producing augmenting data further comprises means for marking the visual recording data.

5 13. A portable recording unit as in Claim 12, wherein:
the marking means further comprises means for enabling the recorder to specify a non-contemporaneous mark; and

10 the data storage device stores marking data
associating the non-contemporaneous mark with visual recording data obtained at a marked time different from the marking time at which the non-contemporaneous mark was specified by the recorder.

14. A portable recording unit as in Claim 13, wherein
15 the marking means is adapted to enable specification of a retrospective mark that is associated with visual recording data obtained at a marked time prior to the marking time at which the retrospective mark was specified by the recorder.

15. A portable recording unit as in Claim 13, wherein
20 the marking means is adapted to enable specification of a predictive mark that is associated with visual recording data obtained at a marked time subsequent to the marking time at which the retrospective mark was specified by the recorder.

16. A portable recording unit as in Claim 12, wherein
25 the marking means further comprises means for specifying multiple types of marks, each type of mark having a different meaning.

17. A portable recording unit as in Claim 12, further comprising one or more marking tokens for enabling a person to specify a corresponding type of mark, each marking token adapted to enable physical separation of the marking token
5 from the control interface device.

18. A portable recording unit as in Claim 12, wherein the means for obtaining and/or producing augmenting data further comprises a position sensing device for ascertaining the position of the recording unit at any point in time.

10 19. A portable recording unit as in Claim 18, wherein the means for obtaining and/or producing augmenting data further comprises a physiological monitoring device.

20. A portable recording unit as in Claim 12, wherein the means for obtaining and/or producing augmenting data
15 further comprises a physiological monitoring device.

21. A portable recording unit as in Claim 11, wherein the means for obtaining and/or producing augmenting data further comprises a position sensing device for ascertaining the position of the recording unit at any point in time.

20 22. A portable recording unit as in Claim 21, wherein the means for obtaining and/or producing augmenting data further comprises a physiological monitoring device.

23. A portable recording unit as in Claim 11, wherein the means for obtaining and/or producing augmenting data
25 further comprises a physiological monitoring device.

24. A portable recording unit as in Claim 11, wherein the means for obtaining and/or producing augmenting data further comprises a biometric device.

25. A portable recording unit as in Claim 11, wherein
5 the means for obtaining and/or producing augmenting data further comprises a GPS receiver for receiving a signal representing the current time.

26. A portable recording unit for recording an event, comprising:

10 a visual data acquisition device for obtaining visual recording data representing the content of the event;

 means for wirelessly communicating obtained visual recording data from the visual data acquisition device
15 to a data storage device; and

 means for mounting one or more of the devices of the recording unit on the body of a recorder.

27. A portable recording unit as in Claim 26, further comprising a data storage device for storing the visual
20 recording data, and wherein the visual data acquisition device and data storage device are physically separate devices such that one or more of the visual data acquisition device and data storage device can be positioned at a location away from the recorder.

25 28. A portable recording unit for recording an event, comprising:

 a visual data acquisition device for obtaining visual recording data representing the content of the event;

a receiver for receiving a signal transmitted by a recording unit representing visual recording data obtained by that recording unit; and

5 means for mounting one or more of the devices of the recording unit on the body of a recorder.

29. A portable recording unit as in Claim 28, further comprising a transmitter for transmitting a signal representing visual recording data obtained by the recording unit.

10 30. A portable recording unit for recording an event, comprising:

a visual data acquisition device for obtaining visual recording data representing the content of the event;

15 a transmitter for transmitting a signal representing visual recording data obtained by the recording unit; and

means for mounting one or more of the devices of the recording unit on the body of a recorder.

20 31. A portable recording unit for recording an event, comprising:

a visual data acquisition device for obtaining visual recording data representing the content of the event;

25 means for enabling communication by a recorder using the portable recording unit with a recorder using a compatible recording unit; and

means for mounting one or more of the devices of the recording unit on the body of the recorder.

32. A portable recording unit as in Claim 31, wherein the communication means further comprises an audio communication device.

33. A portable recording unit for recording an event,
5 comprising:

a visual data acquisition device for obtaining visual recording data representing the content of the event;

10 a visual recording display device for displaying a visual recording of the event that is being, or has been, obtained by a compatible recording unit; and

means for mounting one or more of the devices of the recording unit on the body of a recorder.

34. A portable recording unit for recording an event,
15 comprising:

a visual data acquisition device for obtaining visual recording data representing the content of the event;

a GPS receiver; and

20 means for mounting one or more of the devices of the recording unit on the body of a recorder.

35. A system for recording an event involving multiple participants simultaneously from different points of view, the system comprising:

25 a first recording unit mounted on a first participant, the first recording unit further comprising:

30 a visual data acquisition device for obtaining visual recording data representing the content of the event;

means for receiving time code data
representing the current time from a time code
generating device that is not part of the first
recording unit; and

5 a data storage device for storing the visual
recording data obtained by the first recording unit
and the time code data, such that the time code
data is associated with visual recording data
obtained at the time represented by the time code
10 data; and

a second recording unit mounted on a second
participant, the second recording unit further
comprising:

15 a visual data acquisition device for obtaining
visual recording data representing the content of
the event;

means for receiving time code data
representing the current time from the time code
generating device, the time code generating device
20 not being part of the second recording unit; and

a data storage device for storing the visual
recording data obtained by the second recording
unit and the time code data, such that the time
code data is associated with visual recording data
25 obtained at the time represented by the time code
data, wherein the visual recording data obtained by
the first and second recording units is
synchronized as a result of the time code data
stored by the first and second recording units.

30 36. A system as in Claim 35, wherein:

the means for receiving of the first recording unit
further comprises a GPS receiver;

the means for receiving of the second recording
unit further comprises a GPS receiver; and

the time code generating device further comprises GPS transmitter system.

37. A system as in Claim 35, wherein:

5 the first and/or second recording units further comprise a transmitter for transmitting a signal representing visual recording data obtained by the recording unit; and

10 the second and/or first recording units, respectively, further comprise a receiver for receiving a signal representing visual recording data obtained by the other recording unit.

38. A system as in Claim 37, wherein:

the transmitter is adapted to send a synchronization signal; and

15 the receiver is adapted to receive and identify the synchronization signal.

39. A system as in Claim 35, wherein the first and second recording units each further comprise an audio communication device for enabling the corresponding
20 participant to communicate with the participant on which the other recording unit is mounted.